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Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Speaker McCarthy directs the House to open an impeachment inquiry into President Biden

By LISA MASCARO and FARNOUSH AMIRI  
Associated Press  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Speaker Kevin McCarthy announced Tuesday he is directing the U.S. House to open an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden over his family's business dealings, launching historic proceedings ahead of the 2024 election. McCarthy said that House investigations so far "paint a picture of a culture of corruption" around the Biden family as Republicans probe the business dealings of the president's son, Hunter Biden, from before the Democratic president took office. "These are allegations of abuse of power, obstruction and corruption, and they warrant further investigation by the House of Representatives," McCarthy, R-Calif., said at the Capitol, announcing he was directing the House led by the Oversight Committee "to open a formal impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden."

Continued on Page 2



Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., speaks at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023.

Associated Press

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## Speaker McCarthy directs the House to open an impeachment inquiry into President Biden

Continued from Front

The White House shot back, calling the action in the midst of the presidential campaign “extreme politics at its worst.”

“House Republicans have been investigating the president for nine months, and they’ve turned up no evidence of wrongdoing,” said spokesman Ian Sams. Acting on his own, the Republican speaker McCarthy faces mounting pressure from his right flank to take action against Biden or risk being ousted from his leadership job — while he also is struggling to pass legislation needed to avoid a federal government shutdown at the end of the month. McCarthy is launching the inquiry without a House vote, and it’s unclear if he would even have enough support from his slim GOP majority. Some lawmakers have panned the evidence so far as not reaching the Constitution’s bar of “high crimes and misdemeanors.” The White House and others pointed to McCarthy’s past statements when he insisted a speaker acting unilaterally to launch an impeachment inquiry would have no legitimacy. McCarthy “flipfopped because he doesn’t have support,” Sams said.

An inquiry is a step toward impeachment, which used to be rare, and McCarthy essentially outlined the potential charges ahead. With Donald Trump now the Republican frontrunner to challenge Biden in next year’s election, GOP allies are working to detract attention from the indicted former president’s legal challenges and turn a negative spotlight on Biden.



**House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., center, is flanked by Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-Calif., the Democratic Caucus chair, left, and Rep. Katherine Clark, D-Mass., the Democratic whip, as he speaks to reporters after House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said he is launching an impeachment inquiry against President Joe Biden, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023.**

Associated Press

The inquiry will be led by Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer, in coordination with Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan and Ways & Means Chairman Jason Smith. They are heading across the Capitol Wednesday to brief the Senate.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell has warned House Republicans off the effort, but said Tuesday: “I don’t think Speaker McCarthy needs advice from the Senate.”

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries called it an “illegitimate impeachment inquiry” and said Democrats will defend Biden “until the very end.”

“There is not a shred of evidence that President Joe Biden has engaged in wrongdoing,” Jeffries said. “President Joe Biden is a good man. He’s an honest man. He’s a patriotic man.” The Republican speaker

is once again at a political crossroads — trying to keep his most conservative lawmakers satisfied and save his own job. It’s a familiar political bind for McCarthy, who is juggling the impeachment inquiry and a government shutdown threat with no clear end game.

Government funding is to run out on Sept. 30, which is the end of the federal fiscal year, and Congress must pass new funding bills or risk a shutdown and the interruption of government services.

Minutes after McCarthy spoke a chief Republican critic stood on the House floor deriding the inquiry as merely “a baby step” and reviving the threat of ousting the speaker. “We must move faster,” said Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla.

The White House has insisted Biden was not involved in his son’s business deal-

ings. And Democrats are stepping up to fight against what they view as unfounded claims against him ahead of the 2024 election as Republicans attempt to blur the lines with Trump.

Former President Trump was twice impeached by the House but acquitted by the Senate. He now faces more serious charges in court, indicted four times this year, including for trying to overturn the 2020 election Biden won.

House Republicans are probing the business dealings of Hunter Biden but so far have not produced hard evidence linking them and the president. They have shown a few instances largely during the time the elder Biden was Barack Obama’s vice president when he spoke by phone with his son and stopped by dinners his son was hosting with business partners.

An impeachment inquiry

would provide more heft to the House investigation, especially as the Oversight Committee battles in court for access to Biden family financial records.

Republicans contend the Justice Department has not fully probed the allegations against Hunter Biden, and say he received preferential treatment in what they call a sweetheart plea deal that recently collapsed. The Department of Justice has appointed a special prosecutor in that probe.

“We will go wherever the evidence takes us,” McCarthy said.

Comer, the Oversight chairman from Kentucky, is digging into the Biden family finances and is expected to seek banking records for Hunter Biden as the panel tries to follow the flow of money. On Tuesday, Comer demanded the State Department produce documents about the work Biden did as vice president during the Obama administration to clean up corruption in Ukraine. Comer wants to understand the State Department’s views of former Ukrainian prosecutor Viktor Shokin, whom Biden and many Western allies wanted removed from office because of allegations of corruption.

This comes as federal government funding is set to run out on Sept. 30, which is the end of the federal fiscal year, and Congress must pass new funding bills or risk a shutdown and the interruption of government services.

Conservatives who power McCarthy’s majority want to slash spending, and the hard right is unwilling to approve spending levels the speaker negotiated with Biden earlier this year. □



# Prescription opioid shipments declined sharply even as fatal overdoses increased, new data shows

By **GEOFF MULVIHILL**  
**Associated Press**

The number of prescription opioid pills shipped in the U.S. in the second half of the 2010s decreased sharply even as a nationwide overdose crisis continued to deepen, according to data released Tuesday.

The decline in painkiller prescriptions finally dropping below the quantities sold in the mid-2000s when the overdose epidemic accelerated happened after state and federal governments tightened prescribing guidelines and state, local and Native American tribal governments sued the industry over the toll of the addictive drugs.

"We are still at an epidemic proportion of pills," Peter Mougey, a lawyer representing governments that are suing drugmakers, distribution companies and pharmacies, said in an online news conference to release the data Tuesday. The distribution data is being released by lawyers after a judge ordered the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to share it with the plaintiffs. The governments assert that the companies should have done more to stop the flow of opioids when they saw that more than necessary were flowing to pharmacies and patients. The lawyers obtained the updated data from the DEA's Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System, or ARCOS, as part of their lawsuits. It showed that in 2019, 8.8 billion dosage units pills, patches, lollipops were shipped for 12 common opioids. That's just over half as many doses as the peak of shipments in 2010, when nearly 16 billion doses were moved. Lawyers also noted that the strongest doses of pills from before are no longer on the market.

But Mougey pointed out that as prescription drug shipments decreased, illicit opioids particularly heroin and illegally produced versions of fentanyl increased. And the number of deadly overdoses continued to climb. The first public re-



A number of 5-mg pills of Oxycodone are displayed on June 17, 2019.

Associated Press

lease of data four years ago was more dramatic, showing how the prescribing and shipping of powerful prescription opioid painkillers increased through the late 2000s and early 2010s. During that time, prescription drugs were the opioids linked to the most deaths in the U.S.

The data showed how doctors were prescribing more powerful pills, even as the deaths added up. And it showed just how pervasive the drugs were: Each year, drug companies were shipping enough pills for everyone living in some counties mostly in Appalachia to have more than a 100-day supply. The newly released data is the first deep look at what happened with prescription drug shipments later in the 2010s. But the story of the overdose crisis from that time forward is well documented and dire. By the early 2010s, policy-makers and doctors were restricting access to prescription opioids. People who had become addicted looked for other sources and found them in illicit pills, which are often counterfeit, and other street drugs. Heroin deaths increased dramatically, and so did those from illicit and potent synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, which are often added to other drugs by dealers.

The fentanyl-driven crisis is more deadly than any other drug tragedy the nation has ever seen. In 2010, opioids were linked to just over 21,000 deaths in the U.S. In 2022, the opioid-related death toll was more than 82,000. Cleveland-based U.S. District Judge Dan Polster, who is overseeing evidence in all the lawsuits in federal courts, previously required that the data from 2006 through 2014 be shared.

The Washington Post and HD Media, a company that owns newspapers in West Virginia, went to court to seek the information, which was released publicly beginning in 2019. □

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# New Mexico governor's suspension of right to public carry ignites protests

By **SUSAN M. BRYAN**

**Associated Press**

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)**

— Some demonstrators defiantly wore holstered handguns on their hips or carried assault rifles in a Tuesday rally by gun-rights advocates, protesting New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's surprise order to suspend the right to carry firearms after two children were recently killed in separate shootings.

The rally unfolded on Albuquerque's Civic Plaza shortly before New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez announced he cannot defend the governor's public health order on firearms, exposing a divide between the state's top-ranked elected Democrats.

In his letter to Lujan Grisham, Torrez said that although he agrees a debate is needed on the impact of gun violence, it cannot be rebranded a public health emergency to justify a blanket 30-day prohibition against carrying firearms in and around Albuquerque. He urged the governor to consider whether her time would be better spent on developing comprehensive legislation.

"While I understand that frustration may have led



**Demonstrators carry their assault rifles to a Second Amendment protest in response to Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's recent public health order suspending the conceal and open carry of guns in and around Albuquerque for 30-days, Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, in Albuquerque, N.M.**

you to undertake a unilateral approach to addressing the heart-wrenching challenge of gun violence in our community, I urge you to reconsider this course of action," said Torrez.

Many of the dozens of people gathered in Albuquerque Tuesday wore T-shirts in support of the right to bear arms, while others waved American flags and held signs reading: "Do Not

Comply."

Alicia Otero, whose son was killed in 2021, held a poster that included a photo of 24-year-old Elias Otero and the words "I blame the shooter! Not the gun!"

"I'm here because I'm against gun violence and I've been crying to our governor to make changes and to hold the offenders accountable and now that she made this new order,

it's unfair to us because we're scared," she said. "After things like this happened, we need to protect ourselves and now she's taking that away from us." Otero said law abiding citizens are being punished by the order she said will have no effect on curbing crimes like the one her family suffered. The governor issued her order on Friday suspending the open and

concealed carry of guns in most public places. Lujan Grisham said she was compelled to act because of recent killings, including the death of an 11-year-old outside a minor league baseball stadium last week and the August shooting death of 13-year-old Amber Archuleta in Taos County. Amber's father, Joshua Archuleta, applauded the order, saying his family was destroyed.

"We are looking for answers and solutions to this issue," he said in a Monday statement.

The Catholic Church is among the few who have joined longtime gun-control advocates in support of the order.

The Most Rev. John C. Wester, archbishop of the Diocese of Santa Fe, insisted the governor is "not attacking the Second Amendment."

"I hope to hear more of an outcry over an eleven-year-old boy killed by a bullet fired in a road rage incident than over the right to carry a gun," he said.

Lujan Grisham defended her order as necessary, and rebuffed calls for her impeachment by Republican lawmakers, who have called on her to rescind it. □

# Atlanta, New Orleans, San Francisco areas gain people after correction of errors

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**

**Associated Press**

Some of the most high-profile urban areas in the U.S. gained population on Tuesday.

But it's not because of a sudden flood of moving trucks into Atlanta, New Orleans and San Francisco.

Rather, the U.S. Census Bureau corrected errors made in the population and housing counts of urban areas that were officially released in December, according to a Federal Register notice published Tuesday.

The Atlanta urban area

had its population adjusted to 5.1 million residents from 4.9 million residents. An ad-

ditional 100,853 residents living in more than 37,000 homes had been mistaken-



**The gold dome of the Georgia Capitol gleams in the sun, Aug. 27, 2022, in front of the skyline of downtown Atlanta.**

**Associated Press**

ly assigned to the Gainesville, Georgia, urban area. The population of the New Orleans urban area grew to 963,212 residents from 914,531. The additional 48,681 residents had been mistakenly assigned to the Laplace-Lutcher-Gramercy, Louisiana, urban area, which was supposed to be deleted following a merger with the New Orleans urban area. The San Francisco-Oakland urban area's population was corrected to 3.5 million residents from 3.2 million. The addition of nearly a

quarter million residents, as well as more than 100,000 homes, came from the San Rafael-Novato, California, urban area, which had been counted separately by accident when it actually should have been deleted and merged with the San Francisco-Oakland urban area.

After every once-a-decade census, the Census Bureau publishes a list of urban areas and their population and housing counts. The most recent one was released in December. □



# Sweeping study finds 1,000 cases of sexual abuse in Swiss Catholic Church since mid-20th century

By JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

**GENEVA (AP)** — A sweeping, year-long study of sexual abuse by Catholic priests and others in Switzerland published Tuesday has turned up more than 1,000 cases since the mid-20th century, as the Swiss church becomes the latest in Europe to reckon with the abuse scandal.

With few exceptions, those accused of wrongdoing were all male.

Nearly three-fourths of the documents examined showed the sexual abuse involved minors.

The report, commissioned by the Swiss Conference of Bishops and led by two University of Zurich historians, offers a deep look at the sexual abuse and harassment that has confounded the Catholic Church across the globe in recent decades upending the lives of many victims and their families, and tarnishing the image of the institution.

The authors said in a statement that they identified 1,002 "situations of sexual abuse" in the Swiss church,



Faithful attend the Sunday Mass in Einsiedeln, Switzerland, Sunday, 31 May 2020.

Associated Press

including accusations against 510 people. The abuse, they wrote, affected 921 people.

"The situations identified surely amount to only the tip of the iceberg," said the historians Monika Dommann and Marietta Meier in a statement.

Among other findings, which were admittedly not exhaustive, over half

56% of the cases of sexual abuse involved men or boys. Some 39% of victims were women or girls, while sourcing did not allow for the remaining 5% percent to be identified by gender, according to the study.

The researchers pored over thousands of pages of secret documents, assembled by church authorities since the mid-20th century.

But they said many sources of information haven't been fully studied. They cited some cases where documents were destroyed to cover up any alleged wrongdoing.

The study reported that abuse happened across the country. More than half of the cases took place during pastoral care and about 30% occurred in

places like schools, homes and boarding schools. Some incidents took place during confessions or consultations.

The researchers found many cases were "concealed, covered up or downplayed."

"In doing so, the interests of the Catholic Church and its leaders were placed before the well-being and protection of parishioners."

The Swiss Conference of Bishops, which announced Sunday a Vatican-ordered investigation into claims of sexual abuse in Switzerland, and two other religious groups acknowledged in a joint statement that not enough was done to fight such abuse

"As ecclesiastical institutions, we carry a great share of responsibility in the fact that so many people in the heart of the Church were victims of crimes, and often suffered the consequences for their lives, for themselves, their relationships, their private and professional development, their confidence in God, in life," they said. □

# U.N. says Nicaragua's human rights violations and persecution of dissidents are on the rise

By GABRIELA SELSER

Associated Press

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Nicaragua has increased human rights violations and persecution of the opposition as it ratchets up its efforts to stifle dissent, a United Nations group of experts monitoring the country said Tuesday.

The Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua told the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, that the government continues increasing pressure on human rights defenders to force them to leave the country.

That persecution has extended to the education sector, where the government has systematically

cancelled the legal status of private universities and seized their campuses.

"We have observed the intentional and severe deprivation of economic and social rights, in particular the right to education and academic freedom," said Jan-Michael Simon, chair of the group. "Today, the university sector of Nicaragua as a whole no longer has independent institutions. Nicaragua is being stripped of its intellectual capital and critical voices, leaving the country's prospects and development on hold."

Last month, the government confiscated the prestigious Jesuit-run University of Central America

in Nicaragua. It was the latest in a series of actions by authorities against the Catholic Church, but also among some 27 higher education institutions that have been cancelled and confiscated. The group noted that religious figures, in particular from the Catholic Church, are increasingly targets of attacks and some have been forced to leave the country. Once abroad they are sometimes stripped of their nationality and have their assets in Nicaragua confiscated.

The university and other education institutions were important centers of dissent during the popular protests in April in 2018 that became a referendum on

President Daniel Ortega's administration. Ortega was re-elected after jailing seven potential competitors in

2021.

The government's pursuit of the opposition has continued and intensified. □



Nicaragua supporters protest outside of the Organization of the American States asking that political prisoners be freed and against the government's human rights violations, during a rally in Washington, June 23, 2021.

Associated Press



# 10,000 people are missing and thousands are feared dead as eastern Libya is devastated by floods

By **SAMY MAGDY**  
Associated Press

**CAIRO (AP)** — Emergency workers uncovered more than 1,500 bodies in the wreckage of Libya's eastern city of Derna on Tuesday, and it was feared the toll could spiral with 10,000 people reported still missing after floodwaters smashed through dams and washed away entire neighborhoods of the city.

The startling death and devastation wreaked by Mediterranean storm Daniel pointed to the storm's intensity, but also the vulnerability of a nation torn apart by chaos for more than a decade. The country is divided by rival governments, one in the east, the other in the west, and the result has been neglect of infrastructure in many areas.

Outside help was only just starting to reach Derna on Tuesday, more than 36 hours after the disaster struck. The floods damaged or destroyed many access roads to the coastal city of some 89,000.

Footage showed dozens of bodies covered by blankets in the yard of one hospital. Another image showed a mass grave piled with bodies. More than 1,500 corpses were collected, and half of them had been buried as of Tuesday evening, the health minister for eastern Libya said.

Derna's ambulance authority put the current death toll at 2,300.

But the toll is likely to be higher, in the thousands, said Tamer Ramadan, Libya envoy for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. He told a U.N. briefing in Geneva via videoconference from Tunisia that at least 10,000 people were still missing. He said later Tuesday that more than 40,000 people have been displaced.

The situation in Libya is "as devastating as the situation in Morocco," Ramadan said, referring to the deadly earthquake that hit near



A general view of the city of Derna is seen on Tuesday, Sept. 12., 2023.

Associated Press

the city of Marrakesh on Friday night.

The destruction came to Derna and other parts of eastern Libya on Sunday night. As the storm pounded the coast, Derna residents said they heard loud explosions and realized that dams outside the city had collapsed. Flash floods were unleashed down Wadi Derna, a river running from the mountains through the city and into the sea.

The wall of water "erased everything in its way," said one resident, Ahmed Abdalla.

Videos posted online by residents showed large swaths of mud and wreckage where the raging waters had swept away neighborhoods on both banks of the river. Multi-story apartment buildings that once were well back from the river had facades ripped away and concrete floors collapsed. Cars lifted by the flood were left dumped on top of each other.

Libya's National Meteorological Center said Tuesday it issued early warnings for Storm Daniel, an "extreme weather event," 72 hours before its occurrence, and notified all governmental authorities by e-mails and through media ... "urging them to take preventive measures." It said that Bayda recorded a record 414.1 millimeters (16.3 inches) of rain from Sunday to

Monday.

On Tuesday, local emergency responders, including troops, government workers, volunteers and residents dug through rubble looking for the dead. They also used inflatable boats to retrieve bodies from the water.

Many bodies were believed trapped under rubble or had been washed out into the Mediterranean Sea, said eastern Libya's health minister, Othman Abduljaleel.

"We were stunned by the amount of destruction ... the tragedy is very significant, and beyond the capacity of Derna and the government," Abduljaleel told The Associated Press on the phone from Derna. Red Crescent teams from other parts of Libya also arrived in Derna on Tuesday morning but extra excavators and other equipment had yet to get there.

Flooding often happens in Libya during rainy season, but rarely with this much destruction. A key question was how the rains were able to burst through two dams outside Derna whether because of poor maintenance or sheer volume of rain.

Karsten Haustein, a climate scientist and meteorologist at Leipzig University, said in a statement that Daniel dumped 440 millimeters (15.7 inches) of rain on east-

ern Libya in a short time.

"The infrastructure could probably not cope, leading to the collapse of the dam," he said, adding that human-induced rises in water surface temperatures likely added to the storm's intensity.

Local authorities have neglected Derna for years. "Even the maintenance aspect was simply absent. Everything kept being delayed," said Jalel Harchaoui, an associate fellow specializing in Libya at the London-based Royal United Services Institute for Defense and Security Studies. Factionalism also comes into play. Derna was for several years controlled by Islamic militant groups. Military commander Khalifa Hifter, the strongman of the east Libya government, captured the city in 2019 only after months of tough urban fighting.

The eastern government has been suspicious of the city ever since and has sought to sideline its residents from any decision-making, said Harchaoui. "This mistrust might prove calamitous during the upcoming post-disaster period," he said.

Hifter's eastern government based in the city of Benghazi is locked in a bitter rivalry with the western government in the capital of Tripoli. Each is backed by powerful militias and

by foreign powers. Hifter is also backed by Egypt, Russia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, while the west Libya administration is backed by Turkey, Qatar and Italy.

Still, the initial reaction to the disaster brought some crossing of the divide.

The Tripoli-based government of western Libya sent a plane with 14 tons of medical supplies and health workers to Benghazi. It also said it had allocated the equivalent of \$412 million for reconstruction in Derna and other eastern towns. Airplanes arrived Tuesday in Benghazi carrying humanitarian aid and rescue teams from Egypt, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. Egypt's military chief of staff met with Hifter to coordinate aid. Germany and France said they also were preparing to send rescue personnel and aid.

It was not clear how quickly the aid could be moved to Derna, 250 kilometers (150 miles) east of Benghazi, given conditions on the ground.

Ahmed Amdourd, a Derna municipal official, called for a sea corridor to deliver aid and equipment.

President Joe Biden said in a statement Tuesday that the United States is sending emergency funds to relief organizations and coordinating with the Libyan authorities and the U.N. to provide additional support.

"Jill and I send our deepest condolences to all the families who have lost loved ones in the devastating floods in Libya," he said. The storm hit other areas in eastern Libya, including the town of Bayda, where about 50 people were reported dead. The Medical Center of Bayda, the main hospital, was flooded and patients had to be evacuated, according to footage shared by the center on Facebook.

Other towns that suffered included Susa, Marj and Shahatt, according to the government. □





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## Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to traveling parents to list off some of the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

### Baby Beach in San Nicolas

Baby Beach is one of Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

### Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated



in the back streets of the Pos Chiquito city. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to

set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

### Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area

Yet another highly popular beach site, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where

most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one

of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

### Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

### Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close! □

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

### Emergency services

Even though most people don't even want to think about having to contact emergency services—especially not while on their vacation, it is still important to know what number to dial in case of the unlikely event of an accident or severe incident.

Police: 100  
Police Tipline: 11141  
Ambulance: 911  
Fire Dept: 115  
Oranjestad: HOH hospital: +297-527-4000  
San Nicolas: ImSan: +297-527-8833

### Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets gener-

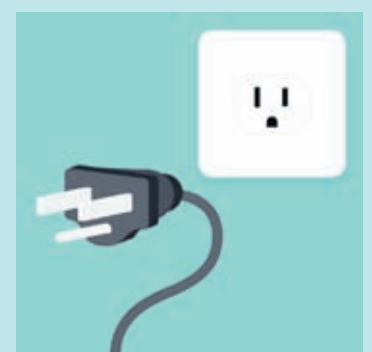
ally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

### Taxis

Prices for taxi fares are set by the Department of Public Traffic and are based on destination rather than mileage. Most taxis can take up to five passengers, but this may vary depending on the vehicle. Taxis are pretty much always available and you can ever hire one for \$45 an hour.

### Safety

Aruba is one of the safest islands in the Caribbean, and many tourists that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around



at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe. □



## Infini - Where Culinary Artistry Meets Intimacy



**Nestled in the heart of Aruba, Infini offers a unique and unforgettable dining experience that sets it apart from other fine dining establishments on the island. As an exclusive chef's table with only 18 seats available per night, Infini promises an intimate journey of flavors and sensations that will leave guests in awe.**

One of the defining features of Infini is the personalized attention given to each guest. As diners take their seats at the chef's table, they are greeted by skilled culinary artisans who not only cook and plate each dish but also take the time to describe the origins and inspirations behind every creation. This interaction elevates the dining experience, making it not just a meal but an immersive journey into the world of gastronomy.

The Asian Caribbean Impressions Menu, with its 8 courses and amuse-bouche, showcases a blend of flavors that pays tribute to the rich tapestry of local producers and farmers on the island. Each course is thoughtfully curated to celebrate the island's natural bounty and honor those who have contributed to the culinary



landscape of Aruba.

The journey begins with the Amuse-Bouches, featuring mushrooms from the local urban farm, 'Farm a Cure Fungi'. The dishes, such as the 'Mushrooms Canele' and 'Shiitake Pirouline', are a testament to the talent and creativity of the team. This delicate yet flavorful start sets the tone for the culinary adventure that lies ahead.

Infini's decor and ambiance further contribute to the overall dining experience. The restaurant's terrace overlooking Eagle Beach offers a stunning backdrop to enjoy a pre-dinner drink while soaking in the picturesque views. The intimate space, catering to a maximum of 18 guests, ensures that every diner receives personalized attention from the chefs, making them feel like VIPs at a private gathering.

Each course of the 8-course menu tells a story of its own, paying homage to local producers and their dedication to their craft. Dishes like 'Lechuga', a lettuce-based creation in collaboration with another local farm by the name of 'Aruba Happyponics', exemplify Infini's commitment to supporting the community and promoting sustainability.

The restaurant's commitment to showcasing Aruba's unique ingredients continues with 'Cocolishi', a dish featuring Norwegian scallops and ajoblanco, a Spanish gazpacho variation. The meticulous presentation and combination of flavors highlight the skillful fusion of cultures in every bite.

The dish 'Maishi y Cabaron' embraces the local essence of corn and shrimps, while 'Terrine di Porco' pays tribute to the island's talented bacon producer by the name of William Jansen. The 'Hut-spot', a Dutch-inspired dish with tender-



loin medallions, presents a harmonious blend of international influences.

Moving on to the desserts, 'Mango y Coco' offers a delightful pannacotta, while 'Berehein y Aloe' showcases the innovative use of eggplant and aloe vera, cultivated by farmer Loraine of 'Petite Greens Aruba'. Each dish is a testament to the creativity, passion, and culinary excellence of the team at Infini.

Infini's excellence is evident not only in the hearts of satisfied guests but also in the numerous accolades and reviews. With five stars on platforms like TripAdvisor, Google, and OpenTable, the restaurant has earned praise from critics and diners alike. Forbes magazine's comparison of the dining experience to a theatre further reinforces the notion that Infini is not merely a restaurant but a captivating performance of culinary artistry.

Infini stands as a culinary gem, offering an intimate and exclusive experience that tantalises the senses and touches the soul. With its Asian Caribbean Impressions Menu and the dedication to local producers, it is a testament to the island's rich flavours and traditions. A reservation at Infini promises an unforgettable evening of gastronomic delight, leaving guests with memories to savour long after the final course has been served. □





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## Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!

(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.

The bridge was formed dur-

ing thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow

into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.



The Baby Natural Bridge



Current state of the Natural Bridge



The Natural Bridge pre-collapse

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge". □

## Aruba to me



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## Episode CCXXII-223 The Coconut palm

**Etnia Nativa is where you can connect with the mystical aspects of Aruba, its culture, and its traditional heritage. The platform encourages visitors to engage with our island's unique cultural setting.**

During this episode, we want to share the mysticism of an iconic plant of the Caribbean region that has great cultural and religious significance in certain Western Pacific societies, appearing in their mythologies, songs, and oral traditions.

If you think of the Caribbean Sea, the image of a couple of coconut trees and a hammock strung between them surely comes to mind, since it is difficult to imagine a Caribbean beach without them. However, despite being a cultural icon of the tropics, the coconut tree, to the surprise of some, is not native to these shores.

Coconuts were first domesticated by the Austronesian peoples in Southeast Asia and spread during the Neolithic via their seaborne migrations. They played a critical role in the long sea voyages by providing a portable source of food and water as well as building materials for boats. Coconuts were also later spread along the coasts of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans by South Asian, Arab, and European sailors. Based on these separate

introductions, the place of origin of the coconut is a disputed issue; while many consider it to come from South Asia, fossil records from New Zealand indicate that similar, although smaller, plants grew there at least 15 million years ago. There are also older fossils discovered in different regions of India, with coconuts appearing in Hindu literature from the 2nd to the 1st century BC, where they state that between 575 and 608 B.C., a sultan planted a coconut garden about 25 km long, which would most likely be the first recorded coconut plantation.

During the colonial era and the Columbian exchange, some coconut palm varieties were introduced to the American continent through Europeans, although some theories speak of a possible introduction of coconut palms from the Pacific through Panama and by Austronesian sailors.

We know that when Europeans "discovered" the coconuts, they quickly realized how easy it would be to transport sterilized water (coconut water) and nutrients aboard ships, embarking on long voyages across saltwater where freshwater was scarce and often contaminated. After being introduced like this in the middle of the 16th century, the coconut in the Caribbean region was planted afterwards.



There is written evidence of the first exports of coconuts from the insular Caribbean in 1850, and it would be a few years later and until the early 1900s that the boom in the coconut industry began.

An industry that had its ups and downs but that came to export considerable quantities from the Caribbean islands of Cuba, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. There are 13 different types of palms that produce edible coconuts around the world. In the Caribbean, the coconut palm was introduced by Spaniards who brought it from the Canary Islands. In Aruba, the coconut tree did not develop as a major industry; however, beautiful plantations were erected into the landscape, with over 15,000 trees. Those who owned private property land with accessibility to underground water, like in Balashi, Rooi Lamunchi, Daimari, Andicuri, Plantage Tromp, Basiruti area, etc., decided to invest in coconut plantations. Aruban's demographics and its original landscape have also experienced changes since the mid-18th century until the present, which is why some of these long extensions of coconut palms could not resist deforestation and a lack of rainfall.

Basiruti on the West Coast was a place where hundreds of coconut

trees stood out along the coast, but here the development of the emerging hotel and tourist industries also changed the contemporary landscape to which the locals were used. Currently, we see some coconut trees along part of the boulevard and in some abandoned plantations. On the other hand, many hotels were beautified with coconut palms and other palm species.

As something curious, we also share that the name "coconut" can refer to the coconut palm or seed or fruit. The term coconut comes from the old Portuguese word coco, meaning "head" or "skull", from the three indentations in the coconut shell that resemble facial features. So if you look for a face in the next coconut you find, you will surely find it!

If you are keen to explore Aruba's deep heritage, Etnia Nativa is a place to connect. A private residential, a house which integrates natural and reused materials, bursting with art, culture, and island heritage. Each visitor is guided through an authentic encounter with owner-builder and cultural expert. Booking a magical glimpse inside Etnia Nativa WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com





## Unique fauna of Aruba

For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

### Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the cascabel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.

### Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for

hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color.

The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

### Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along



the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

### Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigronuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)



was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. For more information, visit <https://www.arubanationalpark.org/main/flora-fauna/> □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

## ACROSS

45 Halt

1 Holds up

5 Increase

11 Concept

12 Incite

13 Billy

Crystal TV

comedy

14 Emmy

winner

Candice

15 Memo-

table time

16 Cellar

supply

17 Valerie

Harper TV

comedy

19 "Succes-

sion"

network

22 Relay stick

24 Lipstick

goof

26 Dull pain

27 Singer

Fitzgerald

28 Roof

support

30 Scent

31 That girl

32 Starry

hunter

34 Lose

one's

footing

35 — lane

(carpool-

ers' place)

38 Emmy

winner

Patricia

41 Sandy hill

42 Hearts,

e.g.

43 Poker

payment

44 Friend of

Jerry and

Elaine

## DOWN

1 Ascend

2 Scent

3 Emmy

winner for

"Maude"

4 Easy

victim

5 Zealous

6 Sports

spots

7 Extra

amount

8 Snub-

nosed dog

9 Try out

10 Signing

need

16 Took the

title

18 Garden

tools

19 Emmy

winner

for "Mad

About

You"

REFS				PRADA
ACRES				AARON
THEWEST				WING
EOS		RAH		SAL
SENSED				PETE
SOUND				ONES
		LALAW		
SACK				ELENA
TRAY				STRAND
ATM		HUE		EYE
THESOPRANOS				
EUROS				SWANK
DRAWS				LEES

Yesterday's answer

20 Emmy

winner

Lucille

21 Test

type

22 Soaking

spot

23 Field

unit

25 Office

note

29 "See

ya!"

30 Small

drink

33 Washer

cycle

34 —

Trek"

36 Aware of

37 Julia

Louis-

Dreyfus

series

38 Sty

resident

39 Before,

to bards

40 Before

today

41 German

article

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12					
13				14					
15				16					
		17	18				19	20	21
22	23				24	25			
26						27			
28				29	30				
31				32	33				
			34				35	36	37
38	39	40				41			
42						43			
44						45			

9-13

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-13 CRYPTOQUOTE

I J N J Z T I F A M F R O Z R N F P  
N Q A I J Z T V F T I O M Q P F W N Q P  
J Z T I F A M . . . I J N F W N Q P Z T  
A N Q O O M D J N A N I J N Q W I Z F P  
Z T . — T M O H Z Q N Q A O N

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WELL, I MUST ENDURE THE PRESENCE OF A FEW CATERPILLARS IF I WISH TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH THE BUTTERFLIES. — "THE LITTLE PRINCE"

# Millennial Money: Food service workers prepped for success in other jobs



A bartender pours a beer at McMenamin's Tavern in Philadelphia, Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023.

Associated Press

By ALANA BENSON  
of NerdWallet

My first time bartending I was left alone at the bar on a busy summer night with zero training. I cried in the back for a few minutes, then started pouring drinks. I mean, I didn't have a lot of options. At one point, I was so stressed I asked a customer how to make a gin and tonic. That night taught me that I could rely on myself when others didn't show up. I could learn on the fly. I could advocate for myself by asking people to be patient, and I could operate under pressure. So when I was struggling after transitioning into the tech industry, I often thought to myself: If I could handle that first night of bartending, I could certainly handle learning SEO and Zoom meetings.

Working in food service can be brutal, but you learn how to work hard, collaborate with others, manage stress and deal with people.

Despite that, it can feel like you're unqualified for so-called white-collar work when you're used to wearing an apron. And hiring managers may not always

see the value food service workers can bring to the metaphorical table, even though they may be the most loyal and hardworking employees you could ask for.

## I'M JUST HAPPY TO BE HERE

My ex-food service friends and I still swap restaurant tales like war stories: The time a customer vomited on the bar. The time a guy threatened us after getting cold nachos. The time my friend was branded by his head chef with a spoon. All that for just over minimum wage? When I started my first tech job, I nearly tripled my salary. Suddenly, I could save money for my future. It felt like my job valued me, versus at a restaurant, where I'd once had my tips withheld for going to a funeral.

Restaurant workers burn out for many reasons, and pay is only one of them. Most food service employees don't have benefits such as medical insurance or retirement accounts. The hours can be brutal and time off is a joke, not to mention rampant rates of sexual harassment.

When I read through the paperwork for my first

tech job, I was shocked. There was paid parental leave and an education stipend. I made a dentist appointment for the first time in years, and gratefully watched an anti-sexual harassment training video. I kept telling my bosses, "I'm just happy to be here."

## FOOD SERVICE BUILDS VALUABLE SKILLS

Lawrence Lockhart Jr., of Olive Branch, Mississippi, was in food service for 17 years when he'd finally had enough and started to pursue coding through online courses and in-person meet-ups.

"If you are in food service for an extended period of time, and particularly in a leadership position, you will develop a resilience and a level of stress management that is simply uncommon," says Lockhart, now a developer advocate at a web development company. "When I talk about my learning journey and the starts and stops that I had, the ability to start again and not quit completely but give it another shot, all that came from a food service background." In addition to managing stressful situations, food service workers often develop an impressive ability to deal with people — another soft skill that is often prized by hiring managers. "I think the biggest (skill) coming from food service is actually being able to anticipate the needs of others," says Carleá Jean Magee, a freelance user experience (UX) researcher based in Omaha, Nebraska, who previously had spent almost eight years in food service.

"If a group of women comes in and they're giggling and smiling, you're going to offer them different things, as opposed to a man who comes in by himself with a newspaper. I work in very consumer-facing roles, so I have to anticipate the needs and wants of the user and clients, but also anticipate the needs of stakeholders and managers." □

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# Apple's new iPhones get faster chips, better cameras and new charging ports

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**  
AP Technology Writer  
CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP)

— Apple on Tuesday unveiled its next generation of iPhones a line-up that will boast better cameras, faster processors, a new charging system and a price hike for the fanciest model.

The showcase at Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, Calif., comes as the company tries to reverse a mild slump that has seen its sales drop from last year in three consecutive quarters. The malaise is a key reason Apple's stock price has dipped by nearly 10% since mid-July, dropping the company's market value below the \$3 trillion



The iPhone 15 Pro is shown after its introduction on the Apple campus, Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, in Cupertino, Calif.

Associated Press

threshold it reached for the first time earlier this summer. Investors apparently were not impressed with what Apple rolled out Tuesday. The company's shares were down by nearly 2% during afternoon trading. As has been case with Apple and other smartphone makers, the four types of iPhone 15 models aren't making any major leaps in technology. But Apple added enough new bells and whistles to the top-of-the line model the iPhone 15 Pro Max to boost its price by \$100, or 9%, from last year's version to \$1,200. Apple is holding the line on prices for rest of the line-up, with the basic iPhone 15 selling for \$800, the iPhone 15 Plus for \$900 and the

iPhone 15 Pro for \$1,000. All the new models will be available in stores Sept. 22, with pre-orders beginning this Friday. One of the biggest changes that Apple is announced is a new way to charge the iPhone 15 models and future generations. The company is switching over to the USB-C standard that is already widely used on many devices, including its Mac computers and many of its iPads. Apple is being forced to phase out the Lightning port cables it rolled out in 2012 because of a mandate that European regulators plan to impose in 2024. Although consumers often don't like change, the transition to USB-C ports

may not be that inconvenient. That's because the standard is already widely used on a range of computers, smartphones and other devices people already own. The shift to USB-C may even be a popular move since that standard typically charges devices more quickly and also offers faster data transfer speeds.

The basic iPhone 15 models have been redesigned to include a shape-shifting cutout on the display screen that Apple calls its "Dynamic Island" for app notifications a look that was introduced with last year's Pro and Pro Max devices. The basic models are also getting a faster chip used in last year's Pro and Pro Max models, while the next generation of the premium iPhone 15s will run on an even more advanced processor. □

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# A Million Miles Away' charms and inspires with the tale of an unlikely astronaut

**'By MARK KENNEDY**

**AP Entertainment Writer**

If ever there was an inspirational story about reaching for the stars, it's "A Million Miles," the real-life journey of a boy who grew up as a migrant farmworker became a NASA astronaut. It starts in the corn fields of Michoacan, Mexico, as José Hernández looks up into the sky in wonder, and it ends two hours later with him 200 miles above the Earth in the International Space Station.

"Tell me something," his cousin tells him. "Who better than a migrant? Somebody who knows what it's like to dive into the unknown. Who better than that?"

Biopics with outsized heroes can lay it on thick, but "A Million Miles" manages to keep its hero's feet firmly on earth before his space shot, largely thanks to star Michael Peña as Hernández and Rosa Salazar as his wife. They keep their characters' humanity even as the soundtrack and visuals blast off. He may be an astronaut, but someone still needs to take out the trash. Screenwriters Bettina Gilois, Hernán Jiménez and Ale-



This image released by Prime shows Michael Peña in a scene from "A Million Miles Away." Associated Press

jandra Márquez Abella who base their story on Hernández's memoir tell a linear story of a gifted young man who is helped along the way by a teacher, his parents and his extended family. He is rejected so many times from NASA that he keeps all their letters in a folder. Everyone sacrifices for Hernández to eventually become a mission special-

ist: His parents stop moving from field to field and lose their home, his wife delays her dreams of opening a restaurant and Hernández himself misses the birth of a child and spends endless hours away preparing. As an engineer, he is mistaken for a janitor at his first day at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. "A Million Miles" is wisely more about one man's ob-

session and nicely touches on topics like racism, assimilation, deferred dreams, family guilt and dedication. "Tenacity is a superpower," he is told and that's a pretty great lesson amid all these superhero flicks. In many ways, the movie is an outsized twin to another biopic this year "Flamin' Hot," the story of how a struggling but tenacious Mexican American janitor

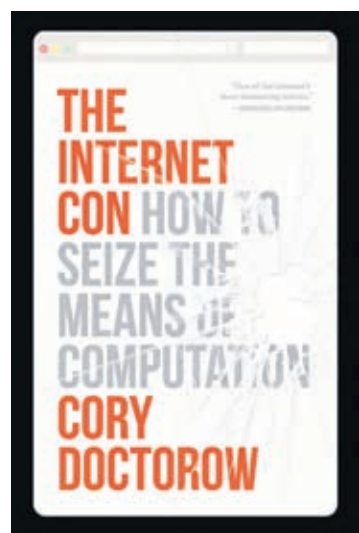
came up with the hit snack Flamin' Hot Cheetos. "A Million Miles" even has a scene with a bowl of Doritos.

Alejandra Márquez Abella directs with assurance and there are some truly elegant touches, like when a box of paperwork dissolves to become a box of field crops or when the camera captures Hernández as a boy in the family car and then seamlessly shows him all grown up in a car following.

But the director also threatens to lay it on thick, like adding the image of a Monarch butterfly floating in the space shuttle a symbol from the film's first frames but one that feels labored by the time zero-gravity has been reached. We've already had a shot of farmworkers gazing up in their field as his shuttle streaks heaven-ward.

Better are the scenes in which Hernández tries to make himself typical NASA material, like trading in his Impala for something more suburban, eating sandwiches at work not enchiladas and giving up blasting Mexican music for Rick Astley. □

## Book Review: Novelist and blogger Cory Doctorow pens a manual for destroying Big Tech



This cover image released by Verso shows "The Internet Con: How to Seize the Means of Computation" by Cory Doctorow.

Associated Press

**By FRANK BAJAK**  
**AP Technology Writer**

As a leading blogger in the pre-Substack era, novelist and public-interest technologist Cory Doctorow often warned that Big Tech was rendering of cyberspace a polluted, dystopian, crassly commercial and often hostile world of limited options.

Now it's happened. Facebook, Instagram and other walled fiefdoms of surveillance capitalism distract discourse with scrolls of targeted ads and trending video reels. More genteel competitors were long ago muscled out.

Hateful trolls, violent speech

and addictive algorithms thrive. And when a user account is mistakenly or unjustly shuttered, platform automation means the aggrieved will encounter callous indifference. It's gotten to where anti-Big Tech initiatives enjoy bipartisan backing in an otherwise teetering U.S. democracy. "There is no fixing Big Tech," Doctorow, who blogged for years on the website "Boing Boing," writes in his new book "The Internet Con: How To Seize The Means of Computation." The breezily written 173-page manifesto is for people who want to destroy it.

Doctorow is adamant that

no one be allowed to wield as much power as Mark Zuckerberg, who he deems a "feudal warlord" of middling intellect. "We don't need a better Zuck. We need to abolish Zuck." He singles out Google, Facebook ("which bizarrely insists that it is called 'Meta'") and Apple in particular for robbing us of choice of the ability to pick up and relocate from the online spaces where we commune with friends, relatives and colleagues. How did these megacorporations do it? With behavior that would have been deemed illegal in other times, and with law-

yers and lobbyists who got them laws like the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act. It effectively criminalizes the invention of competing products.

Doctorow shows how such laws have let HP and Epson make us purchase overpriced printer ink. They're what let auto dealerships and John Deere elbow independent mechanics out of the car and tractor repair business. And they're what discourage the kind of reverse-engineering that allows competitors to create products that can seamlessly converse with, say, Facebook Messenger or Apple's iMessage. □



# The WNBA playoffs start Wednesday. Here's a look at the four first-round series

By DOUG FEINBERG  
AP Basketball Writer

A look at the best-of-3 first-round series in the WNBA playoffs, which starts Wednesday:

No. 1 Las Vegas (34-6) vs. No. 8 Chicago (18-22)

Season series: Aces, 3-0

**Game 1:** Wednesday

Las Vegas: The defending champions looked poised to become the first team to repeat since Los Angeles did it in 2001-02. Las Vegas had the best offense, averaging 92.8 points and set a WNBA-record for offensive efficiency rating with 113.0. Led by MVP candidate A'ja Wilson, the Aces have a potent offense. Wilson is joined by stellar guards Chelsea Gray, Kelsey Plum and Jackie Young. The trio averaged 51.1 points and 15.5 assists. The only question for the team right now is its depth. Candace Parker has been sidelined since having surgery on her foot in late July. The play-off schedule does help the Aces with so many days between games.

**Chicago:** The Sky were the final team to qualify for the playoffs, but has a lot of experience between 2021 Finals MVP Kahleah Copper and Courtney Williams, who helped the Connecticut Sun reach the championship round last season. Copper is the only starter left from that title team. The Sky overcame some



Las Vegas Aces forward A'ja Wilson (22) pulls down a rebound between Washington Mystics guard Ariel Atkins (7) and forward Myisha Hines-Allen (2) during the first half of a WNBA basketball game Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023, in Las Vegas.

mid-season adversity when coach James Wade left to coach in the NBA.

**Prediction:** Aces

No. 3 Connecticut (27-13) vs. No. 6 Minnesota (19-21).

Season series: Sun, 3-1

**Game 1:** Wednesday

Connecticut: The Sun start on offense and defense with Alyssa Thomas, who led the league in rebounding and assists. Thomas became the first player in league history to record at least 600 points, 400 rebounds and 300 assists in a single season. She also had six triple-doubles. Connecticut, which made the WNBA Finals last season,

had a change in coaches with Stephanie White taking over. She had to revamp the offense a month into the season when Brionna Jones went down with an Achilles tear.

**Minnesota:** The Lynx started the season 0-6 and looked like they were headed to the draft lottery before turning things around, becoming just the second franchise to reach the postseason after beginning the year with at least six losses. Napheesa Collier was a big reason why as she averaged 21.5 points, 8.4 rebounds and 2.6 assists. She had help from a pair of

rookies in Diamond Miller and Dorka Juhasz.

**Prediction:** Connecticut

No. 4 Dallas (22-18) vs. No. 5 Atlanta (19-21)

Season series: Wings, 3-0

**Game 1:** Friday

**Dallas:** The Wings had a great season and have a potent inside-outside game.

No one can match Dallas' interior strength with Teaira McCowan, Natasha Howard and Satou Sabally. Couple those three with stellar guard Arike Ogunbowale and the Wings can beat teams in many different ways. Dallas has made the playoffs in five of

its eight seasons in the city, but still is looking to get out of the first round for the first time.

**Atlanta:** The Dream are in the postseason for the first time since 2018 led by its trio of Rhyne Howard, Cheyenne Parker and Allisha Gray, who spent the first six seasons of her career in Dallas before joining Atlanta this year. Monique Billings is the lone player on the roster that was on the team in 2018.

**Prediction:** Dallas

No. 2 New York (32-8) vs. No. 7 Washington (19-21)

Season series: Tied, 2-2

**Game 1:** Friday

**New York:** The Liberty rebuilt its roster in the offseason adding Breanna Stewart, Jonquel Jones and Courtney Vandersloot and had the best season in franchise history. New York won the Commissioner's Cup championship beating Las Vegas and is now hoping to win its first WNBA title. Stewart finished second in the league in scoring and scored more than 40 points four times this season. Sabrina Ionescu set the single-season mark hitting 128 3-pointers. The Liberty finished the season winning eight of its last 10 games. Turnovers have been a problem for New York during the course of the season and Washington is really good at jumping passing lanes and getting steals. □

## Ex-NFL receiver Mike Williams dies 2 weeks after being injured in construction accident

**TAMPA, Fla. (AP)** — Former NFL receiver Mike Williams, who was injured in a construction accident two weeks ago and later put on a ventilator, died Tuesday, his agent said. He was 36.

Williams, who played for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Buffalo Bills from 2010-14, died at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa, agent Hadley Engelhard said.

Williams was injured at a construction site in Hillsborough County, which includes

Tampa, and removed from life support on Thursday, the Tampa Bay Times reported. The newspaper quoted the mother of Williams' 8-year-old daughter as saying he was partially paralyzed in the accident.

"We are saddened to hear of the untimely death of Mike Williams, which has left our organization, his former teammates and fans with very heavy hearts," the Bucs said in a statement. "We send our deepest sympathies to

his family and loved ones as they mourn this tragedy."

Williams was a fourth-round draft pick of the Bucs in 2010 following a standout college career at Syracuse. He had 65 receptions for 964 yards and 11 touchdowns as a rookie and started 52 of the 54 games he appeared in over four seasons with Tampa Bay.

The native of Buffalo was traded to his hometown team in 2014. He played nine games, finishing with



Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver Mike Williams (19) finds room to run between Atlanta Falcons free safety Thomas DeCoud (28) and cornerback Dunta Robinson (23) during an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

eight catches for 142 yards and one TD in his lone season with the Bills.

Williams was last on an NFL roster during a portion of the

2016 offseason with the Kansas City Chiefs. He ended his career with 223 receptions for 3,089 yards and 26 TDs in 63 games. □



## Jets QB Rodgers has torn left Achilles tendon, likely to miss the season

By **DENNIS WASZAK Jr.**

**AP Pro Football Writer**

Aaron Rodgers has a torn left Achilles tendon, according to a person familiar with the diagnosis, and the 39-year-old quarterback likely will miss the rest of the New York Jets' season.

An MRI on Tuesday confirmed the four-time NFL MVP's injury, the person told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because the team didn't announce it. Coach Robert Saleh was scheduled to speak to reporters on a video call later Tuesday. NFL Network first reported Rodgers tore the Achilles tendon, confirming the Jets' fears. Torn Achilles tendons typically take several months of recovery due to the extensive rehabilitation needed.

"Concerned with his Achilles," Saleh said after the Jets' 22-16 overtime win over Buffalo on Monday night. "MRI is probably going to confirm what we think is going to happen, so prayers tonight. But it's not good."

On his fourth regular-season snap in a Jets uniform, Rodgers tried to avoid a rushing Leonard Floyd, who wrapped up the quarter-



**New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers (8) is sacked by Buffalo Bills defensive end Leonard Floyd (56) during the first quarter of an NFL football game, Monday, Sept. 11, 2023, in East Rutherford, N.J.**

**Associated Press**

back and spun him down to the MetLife Stadium turf. Rodgers stood up after a few moments, looked over to the Jets' sideline and then sat on the turf seemingly knowing he was seriously hurt.

He needed help from trainers to get to New York's sideline, where he was taken to the blue medical tent

to be examined. Rodgers then got on a cart to go to the locker room, hopped off near the tunnel and limped inside. Zach Wilson replaced Rodgers just 3:45 into the game and finished 14 of 21 for 140 yards with a touchdown pass to Garrett Wilson and an interception in the victory. The third-year quarterback will now start

for the Jets on Sunday at Dallas and the foreseeable future. Wilson praised the work Rodgers did with him during the offseason and training camp, helping him feel "a lot more prepared" to take the next step in his development.

"The hardest part is now putting it into a game and I've got to be able to do

that," Wilson said Monday night. "Going into this week, it's applying everything that he's kind of helped walk us through and being able to watch him and the coaches, how they've handled this offense. I've got to be able to handle that efficiently."

Rodgers, who spent his first 18 seasons with Green Bay, was acquired by the Jets in April and immediately raised expectations for the frustrated franchise.

He gave the Jets their most accomplished quarterback since Brett Favre, who was acquired from Green Bay in 2008 — clearing the way for Rodgers to become the Packers' signal caller.

Rodgers, who repeatedly has said he won't be one-and-done with the Jets, agreed in July to a restructured contract that gives him \$75 million in fully guaranteed money over this season and next.

The situation evoked eerily similar memories of 1999, when Vinny Testaverde — who, coincidentally, was the Jets' honorary captain Monday night — ruptured his Achilles tendon early in New York's season opener against New England. □

## Former No. 1 tennis player Simona Halep gets 4-year ban in doping case

**LONDON (AP)** — Two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep has been suspended from professional tennis for four years for doping violations, the International Tennis Integrity Agency said Tuesday.

The 31-year-old Romanian "committed intentional anti-doping rule violations" by failing a drug test during the 2022 U.S. Open and for irregularities in her Athlete Biological Passport, the ITIA said.

Halep, who plans to appeal the ruling, had been provisionally suspended since October 2022. The four-year ban will run to Oct. 6, 2026.

Halep reached No. 1 in the WTA rankings in 2017. She won Wimbledon in 2019,

beating 23-time major champion Serena Williams in the final, a year after winning the French Open.

Halep, who had blamed contaminated nutritional

supplements, plans to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

"I am continuing to train and do everything in my power to clear my name of

these false allegations and return to the court," Halep said in a statement.

She said she also will "pursue all legal remedies against the supplement company in question."

The ITIA's tribunal heard from Halep and her expert scientific witnesses but concluded that the player committed both offenses.

"The tribunal accepted Halep's argument that they had taken a contaminated supplement, but determined the volume the player ingested could not have resulted in the concentration of Roxadustat found in the positive sample," the ITIA said. Roxadustat, according to the European Union's medicines agency, stimulates the body to pro-

duce more of the natural hormone erythropoietin, or EPO, which has long been a doping product favored by cyclists and distance runners. Halep's biological passport profile had been examined by an expert panel. Such passports provide a baseline reading of substances in an athlete's body and are considered a way to help chart doping. The tribunal reported that "likely doping" was the explanation for the irregularities in Halep's profile.

Halep is the most prominent tennis player to receive a ban since five-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova tested positive for a newly banned substance at the 2016 Australian Open. □



**Romania's Simona Halep holds the trophy after defeating Serena Williams in the women's singles final of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, July 13, 2019.**

**Associated Press**